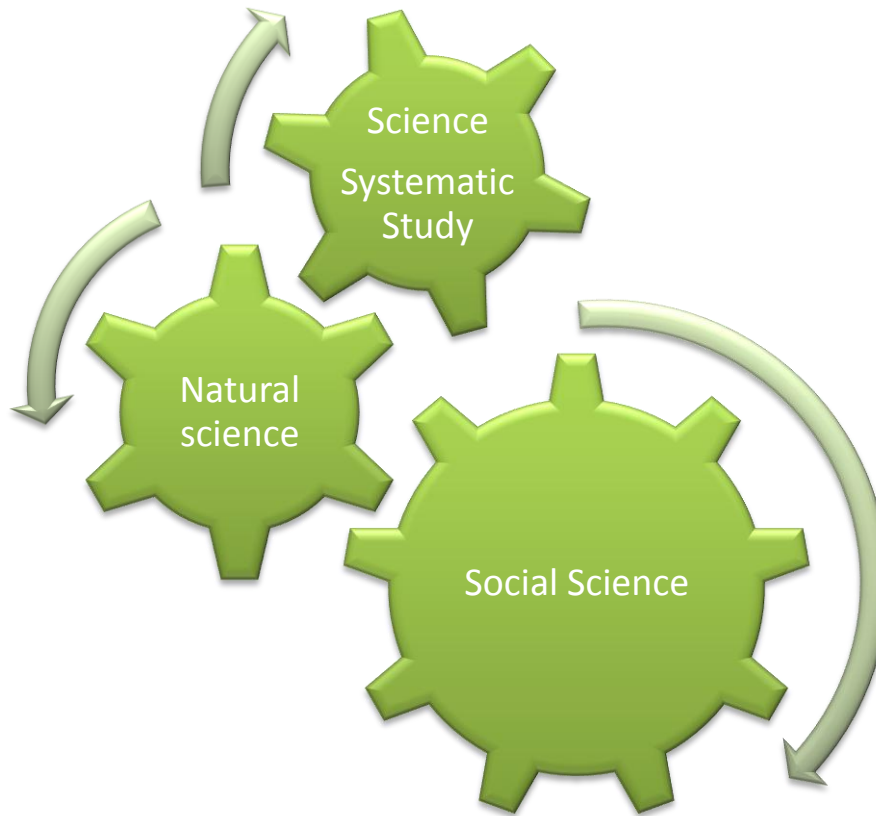


Chapter – 1

Introduction to Sociology



Physics
Chemistry
Zoology
Biology

Geography
History
Economics
Sociology
Anthropology

SOCIOLOGY:

Etymological meaning

$$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{\underline{Societus}} \\ \text{(Society)} \\ \text{(Latin)} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \textbf{\underline{Logos}} \\ \text{(Study)} \\ \text{(Greek)} \end{array} = \textbf{Sociology}$$

Social Scientists

August Comte (1798-1857), France – Father of Sociology

Introduce the word Social Physics in his book – The Course of Positive Philosophy

Emile Durkheim (1858)

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)

Max Weber (1864 - 1857)

August Comte initially proposed the name of Sociology as Social Physics

First formal class of sociology was started in US in 1876.

In Nepal – 1981 masters level

1985 Bachelor Level

1999/2000 +2 level

Formal class

Definitions of different Social scientists:

- Sociology is the science of structure and function of social life.

- **John W Bennet**

- Sociology is the study of system of social action and their inter relationship.

- **Alex Inkeles**

- Sociology is the systematic description and explanation of society as a whole.

- **Emil Durkheim**

- Sociology is the scientific study of society.

- **F.H Giddens**

- Sociology is the science which attempts the interpretative understanding of social actions.

- **Max Weber**

- Sociology is the science of human relation.

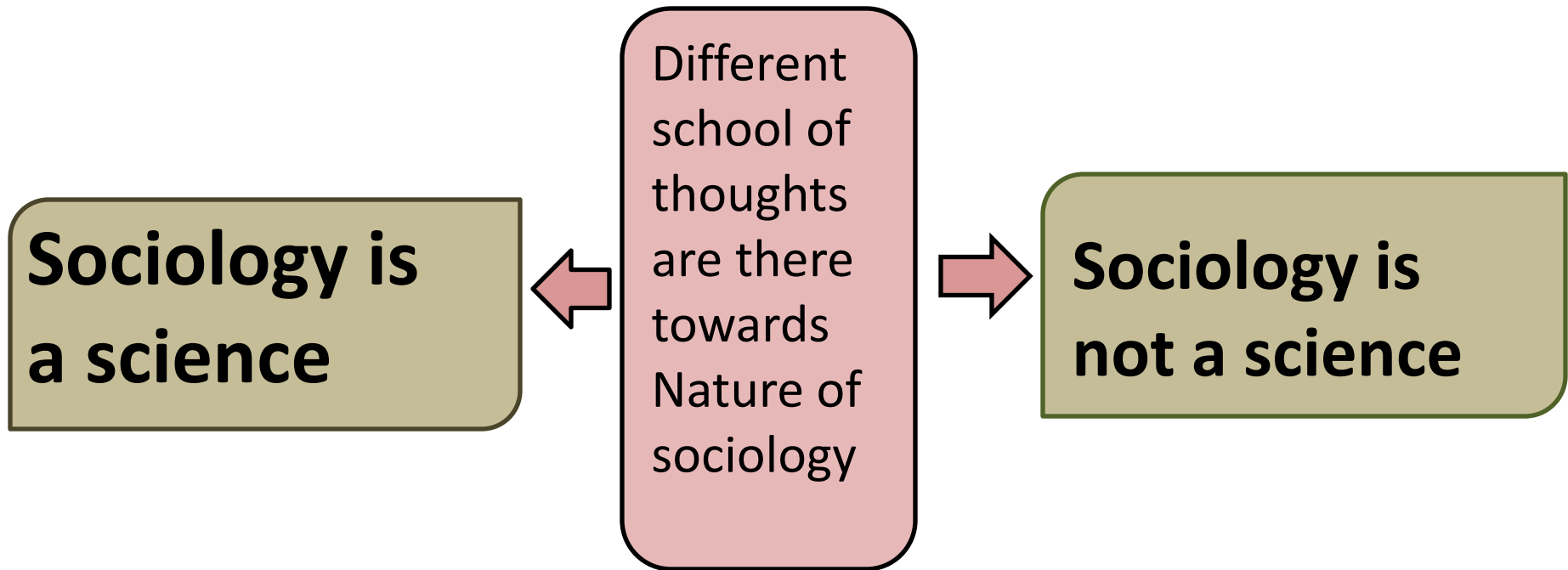
- **A.M Rose**

- Sociology is the scientific study of social life. - **Ogburn and Nimkoff**

Therefore...

Sociology means Science of society, study of social relationship, social interaction, social function, social behaviour, social group, etc.

NATURE OF SOCIOLOGY



Sociology is not a science

- Lack of experiment**

It is abstract

It cannot be tested in lab

- Lack of objectivity**

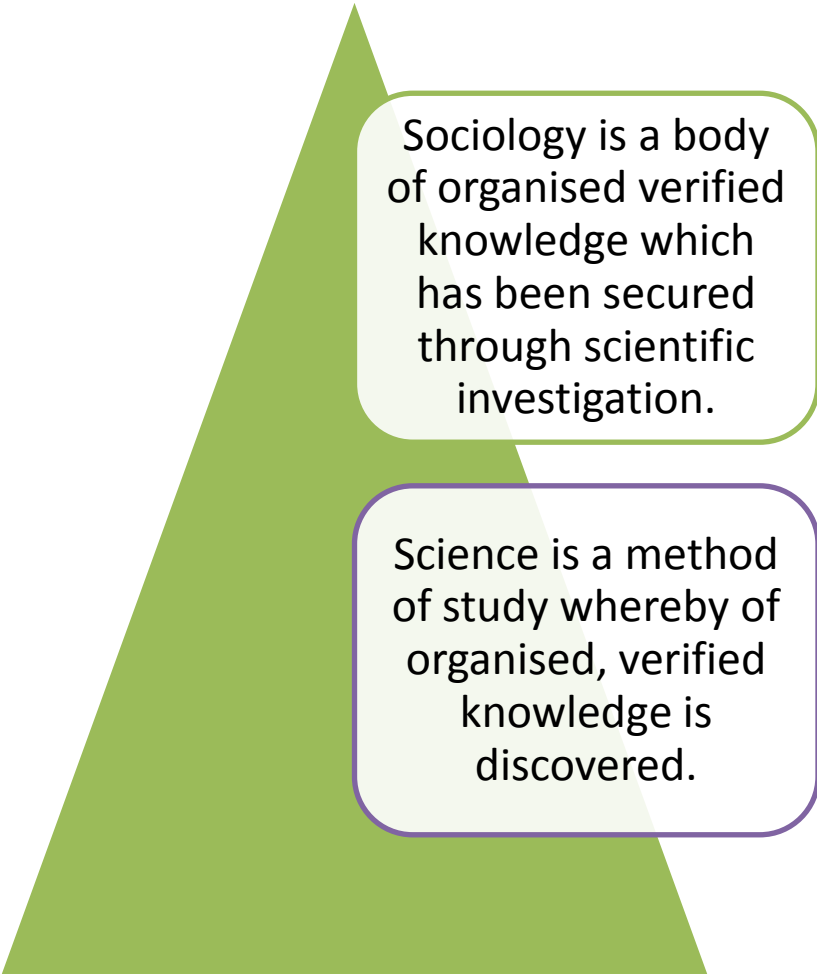
Man has his own prejudice and bias. Some times research report may differ with reality because of his/her own bias and sentiments. Even the real fact may be modified which is impossible in natural science lab.

- Lack of exactivity**

Any subject should be able to frame certain law to be a science. Such law should be able to predict accurately. Term used in sociology are dynamics which may not give same result every time.

- Lack of clear terminology**

All the terminologies used in sociology are not clear. The same term may be used to refer to different meaning by different people. Example, cast and class. Words that create dilemma cannot be used in science.



Sociology is a body of organised verified knowledge which has been secured through scientific investigation.

Science is a method of study whereby of organised, verified knowledge is discovered.

Sociology is a science

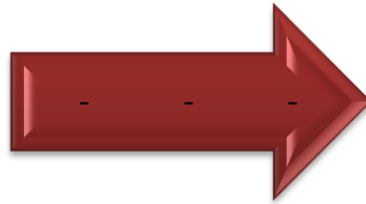
- All science cannot be tested in lab. Even Newton didn't test gravity in lab.
- Every Sociological research is related to cause effect relationship. (scientific processes are adopted in sociological research.)
- Sociology is dynamic. It analyses the social events and updates the old theories.
- Metrology (natural science) would not be always right/true social realities found by sociological research are testable at anytime and anywhere.

Scope of sociology

Specialist/formalist school of thought

- Led by George Simmel (German sociologist)
- Followed by Max Weber, small. Von Weise
- ❖ Sociology is a pure and independent science.
- ❖ It has limited scope
- ❖ Only forms of social relationship but not their context

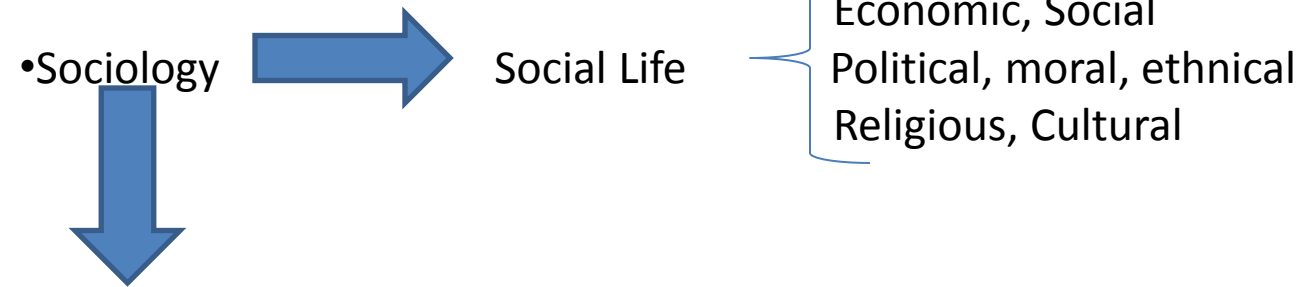
Describes, analyse and
classifies the forms of



Economic, political, religious,
artistic, moral behaviours.

General/ synthetic school of thought

- Sociology is a general science, not pure.
- Make sociology as encyclopaedia. -Emile Durkheim
 -Sorokin
 -Hob House
- All science are intimately inter related.
- Study of one aspect is not sufficient to understand entire phenomenon.



Studies on


- Social process
- Change
- Control
- Stratification
- System
- Group

Criticism of Formalistic School (Narrow)

- Unreasonably narrowed
- Pure sociology cannot be isolated from other social sciences.
- It is neither possible nor essential to delimit the scope of sociology.

Subdivision/Branches of Sociology

Rural Sociology

- Rural sociology is the sociology of rural life in the rural environment.
 - Rural sociology
Rural Structure and
Initially organised in US
Main contributor: Charles Sanderson and Burther Field
Department of rural sociology- 1917 in US
Rural sociological society – 1973 (it published the journal/ rural sociology containing result of rural sociological research)
- 
- Study of rural institution(religious, political) activities, rural organisation, rural set up, rural interaction, rural ecology

Main task of rural sociology

Rural community and rural problem, rural social life, rural social organisation including family and marriage, rural planning and reconstruction, rural religion and culture, rural social process.

Urban Sociology

- Sociology of urban life and activities

